

2015 NMJCL DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION Level 1/2 & I

Aeneas receives advice after the fall of Troy

Graecī Trōiam occupant. Aenēās Trōiānus arma capit et cum multīs virīs oppidum dēfendere mātūrat. Sed Venus dea, māter Aenēae, eum in mediō oppidō invenit et verba facit: “Audī sententiam meam. Tenē memoriā familiam tuam. Convocā familiam et amīcōs firmōs et fuge. Novam patriam inveniēs. Cēde fortūnae. Deī Trōiam vastant.”

Posteā Aenēās Penātēs audit: “Excēdite, Trōiānī. Locus est quem Graecī Hesperiam, aliī Italiam vocant. Ibi terminum cūrārum inveniētis.”

Latin for Americans (1958), pp. 118-119 (abridged)

The Greeks are seizing Troy. Trojan Aeneas takes his weapons and with many men hastens to defend the town. But the goddess Venus, Aeneas' mother, finds him in the middle of the city and says: “Listen to my thought. Remember your family. Call together your family and close friends and flee. You will find a new country. Yield to fortune. The gods are destroying Troy.”

Later Aeneas hears the household gods: “Depart, Trojans. There is a place which the Greeks call Hesperia, others call it Italy. There you will find an end of your cares.”

2015 NMJCL DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION Level II & Above

Latona's Wrath against Niobe

Sacra Lātōnae ā populō suscipiēbantur. Superba Niobē adfuit et rogāvit: “Cūr māt̄rī duōrum liberōrum sacra suscipitis? Hoc nōn permittam. Etiam Niobē dea est: quattuordecim, nōn duōs, liberōs habet. Lātōna glōriam nōn meret: Niobē esse prīma dēbet. Vōbīs liberīsque vestrīs exemplum ēgregium prōpōnō. Sī sententia mea ā vōbīs nōn probāta erit, poenā afficiēminī.”

Lātōna filiū vocāvit et officium permīsīt: “Tē iubeō septem filiōs Niobae interficere.” Prīmus filius interfectus est, tum reliquī. ... Latōna iussit etiam filiās septem ēducī et ā Diānā interficī.

Singulae filiae ē vītā discessērunt. Niobē misera in saxum dūrum mūtāta est.

Latin For Americans, First Book (1958), pp. 170-71

The sacred rites of Latona were being undertaken by the people. Proud Niobe was present and asked: “Why are you undertaking sacred rites for a mother of two children? I shall not permit this. Niobe is also a goddess: she has fourteen, not two, children. Latona does not deserve glory: Niobe ought to be first. To you and your children I propose this outstanding example. If my opinion is not approved by you, you will pay the punishment.” Latona called her son and gave him a job: “I order you to kill Niobe’s seven sons.” The first son was killed, then the rest. ... Latona also ordered the seven daughters to be brought out and to be killed by Diana. Her daughters died one at a time. Poor Niobe was transformed into a hard stone.